

Northfield Open Space Committee
Minutes, Dec. 22, 2014
Town Hall – Planning Board Room

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Mike Barry, Julia Blyth, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Kate Rossiter, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair.

Absent: Bob Hall, Sue Handren, Joe Stacy

The meeting opened at 7:35.

1. **Adoption of agenda:** Done

2. **Minutes:** The minutes for Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, 2014 were approved as amended. 7-0

3. **Member comments:**

Jerry distributed the invoice for the kiosk expenses for signing.

Sue announced that Kim Noyes from Northfield Mountain will provide some materials for the Alderbrook Meadows Accessible Trail. Northfield Mt. feels that the trail will be a positive influence and encourage people to come to Northfield Mt. Sue has not heard from Lane Construction yet.

4. **TPL option on NMH land:** Chris LaPointe from Trust for Public Land talked with Jerry about a possible shortfall in funding for the NMH forest. TPL has not heard about the funding level for the Partnership Grant or the contribution from Department of Conservation and Recreation. The town may need to provide some money. Jerry is discussing possible options for the NMH “park” land with Bob McComber. The ownership of East Northfield Water Company is not yet settled.

5. **Community Park:** The Northfield Community Park Committee (NCPC) has eight members, one more than stipulated. Chair Joe Stacy suggested that Jerry write a letter to the Selectboard requesting the appointment of nine members. *Jerry will write the letter saying the Open Space Committee supports the expansion of the NCPC.* The Open Space Committee voted to increase the NCPC membership to nine people. Jenny/Julia 7-0 *Jerry will contact Joe Stacy.*

6. **Trails brochure:** Jerry unveiled the long-awaited trails brochure (2015 edition). He will add his email to the brochure for feedback and get 100 copies printed. The description of the trails is available at northfieldmass.org/trails. Jerry gave Joanne three over-sized posters with trail descriptions to post at the Brush Mt. kiosk

7. **Pipeline:** The committee discussed the implications of the revised route of the pipeline, the size, noise, and location of the compressor station, and Jerry’s draft letter to the Selectboard. The committee suggested wording to point out the incompatibility of the compressor station and the recreational trails. Jerry will revise and distribute the letter for comments. *Jerry will talk with Brian Noble about letters to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.*

8. **Transfer funds to Northfield Community Park Committee**: the NCPC has asked for \$150 from the Open Space budget. Open Space members would like more information about the NCPC needs. The NCPC can borrow our easel. Jerry told the two NCPC members that the NCPC needs to submit its own budget to the Finance Committee by Jan. 5, or soonest thereafter.

9. **Open Space Committee budget request**: *Jerry will submit our request, same amount as last year, by Jan. 5.*

10. **Stewardship Award**: *Jenny will check for nominations and OSC will discuss in January.*

11. **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 9:35. The next meeting is Jan. 20, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee, Secretary